

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A sialogogue ~~comprising~~ consisting of a polyglutamic acid having an average molecular weight of 10,000 to 5,000,000 or a salt thereof selected from sodium salt, potassium salt, magnesium salt, calcium salt, ammonium salt, ethanolamine salt, and basic amino acid salt.

2. (Currently Amended) An oral composition ~~incorporated with the~~ comprising the sialogogue defined in claim 1 and at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of saccharin sodium, xylitol, sorbit, erythritol, glucose, fructose, citric acid, and malic acid.

3. (Currently Amended) A food product ~~incorporated with~~ comprising the sialogogue defined in claim 1 and at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of saccharin sodium, xylitol, sorbit, erythritol, glucose, fructose, citric acid, and malic acid.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of treating xerostomia, said method comprising:
administering a polyglutamic acid having an average molecular weight of 10,000 to 5,000,000 or a salt thereof selected from the group consisting of sodium salt, potassium salt, magnesium salt, calcium salt, ammonium salt, ethanolamine salt, and basic amino acid salt as a sialogogue to a patient in need thereof.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the amount of polyglutamic acid or the salt thereof is 0.001 to 10% by weight.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 or 5, wherein ~~administering is~~ the polyglutamic acid is administered 1 to 6 times a day.

7. (Original) The oral composition of claim 2, wherein the oral composition is toothpaste, mouthwash, chewing tablet, oral ointment, gargling tablet, troches, artificial saliva, denture stabilizer, or solution for the oral care system with water supply and suction functions.

8. (Original) The food product of claim 3, wherein the food product is swallowing assistant, candy, chewing gum, drink, or gummi.

9. (New) A toothpaste comprising the sialogogue defined in claim 1 and an abrasive.

10. (New) A chewing gum comprising the sialogogue defined in claim 1 and a gum base.